



**GRANT RECIPIENT**  
TOWN OF MICHIANA  
SHORES & LA PORTE CO.  
DRAINAGE BOARD

**YEAR**  
2003

**COUNTY**  
LA PORTE

**CATEGORY**  
LOW COST CONSTRUCTION

**GRANT AWARD**  
\$60,296

**LOCAL SHARE**  
\$60,296



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Lake Michigan Coastal Program  
1600 N 25 E  
Chesterton, IN 46304  
(219) 983-9912  
[www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich](http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich)

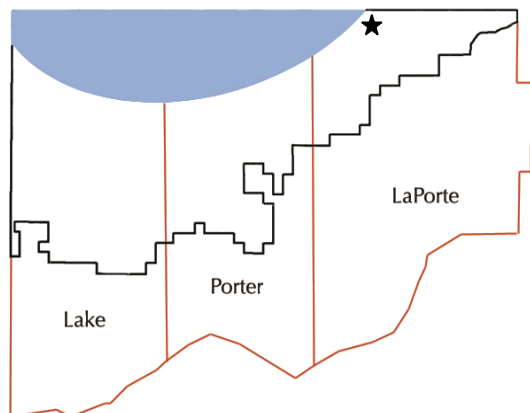


## White Ditch Restoration

White Ditch in Michiana Shores drains a watershed of approximately 5 square miles and flows into Lake Michigan just north of the IN-MI state boundary. It is a regulated drain and has been maintained by the Drainage Board of LaPorte County. Before restoring the channel, banks and adjacent wetlands received little attention. Consequently, the banks were slumping into the channel, secondary growth was rampant, and the area was seldom used for recreation.

This project was sponsored by the LaPorte County Drainage Board and The Town of Michiana Shores with the goals of: 1) reducing maintenance by designing a stable channel, 2) increasing the channel cross-section and clearing the channel to reduce flood hazard, 3) preserving existing wetland adjacent to White Ditch, 4) creating a passive park (walking/nature trail), 5) reducing non-point sources of pollution including sediment input from banks.

To accomplish these goals, funds were requested to restore approximately 1250 feet of the White Ditch stream channel and banks within the Town of Michiana Shores. Restoration included four main tasks: 1) clearing debris, sediment and secondary growth from the channel, 2) reducing the slope of the near-vertical banks to a lower, stable slope, 3) stabilizing the newly contoured banks with deep-rooted native grasses and, 4) creating a walking path along the south side of the stream along the restored bank.



**RESULT:** Restored 1250 ft of the White Ditch stream channel and created a walking path.